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USNMR SHAPE
UNITED STATES MESSAGE

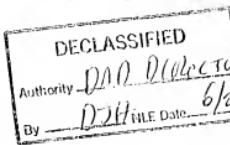
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OFFICIAL INCOMING MESSAGE USNMR TO: 292227Z

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PRIORITY

FROM : USCOB BERLIN
TO : CINCUSAREUR
INFO : CINCEUR PARIS FRANCE
NR : COB 426



FOR NORSTAD, PALMER AND NUTTER FROM WATSON

1. Several reports were received late this afternoon indicating a build-up in number of Vopos around Steinstuecken to approximately 150. Alleged that Vopos threatened to open fire upon refugees and helicopter or to detain it at gun point if it lands in the exclave.

2. (S) At 1845 hours, a report was received from the sergeant in command of the MP patrol in Steinstuecken which stated that at about 1300 hours a large number of Vopos appeared in the area adjacent to the exclave. They began removing underbrush and trees from an area which, when finished, will apparently provide a cleared strip around the perimeter 30 yards wide. By 1730 hours the number of Vopos present was reduced to 10-15.

3. (S) The number of refugees in the village is reported to be 8.

4. (S) The conclusion of the above information is that, according to previous information, Vopos are now making every effort to tighten security cordon around Steinstuecken. Consider that threats to open fire are without any real substance in view of the current international climate and Rusk-Gromyko talks. It is quite likely, however, that increased number of Vopos will reappear Saturday morning to resume clearing operation. The continued presence of refugees in the exclave would fully justify this increase in security measures.

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LN 10393

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29 Sep 61

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5. (S) By separate action, USBER is forwarding proposals to STATE to obtain a policy decision on the entire matter of Steinbuecken access. Gilman, Stoessel and Moduire will receive copies.

6. (S) Berlin Command will replace the MP detail Saturday morning by helicopter. Refugees are not being flown out on Saturday.

7. (S) Depending upon results of the above flight, recommendation for removal of the refugees will be submitted later.

8. (S) General Clay concurs.

9. SCP 4.

ACTION : P&P

INFO : OSACEUR; COFS; ACOPS; AIR DEP; AIR OPS; SPASAC INT

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS; DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

LN 10893 (30 Sep 61)

DTG: 292050ZSep61 pds

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